



Capital City Capers



Member Club
of the
I. A. G. S. D. C.

The News Organ of the Capital City Squares

Happy New Year!

The new year is always a time to reflect on the past year and to anticipate the new. In reflecting on the old year, 1989, we can be proud of how well we as a club have done. We can remember proudly and happily the retreat at Fife's last April, our workshops and hoedowns, the recruitment of the largest beginning class ever, our participation in the IAGSDC Convention in New York last July, and many other social and dance related events.

But we must also remember sadly all of the CCS members we have lost. More and more with each passing year.

The new year, 1990, however, holds much promise for us as a social club and as a part of the gay community at large. With our new banner and our huge beginning class, we are essentially a new club with a new spirit of involvement and purpose.

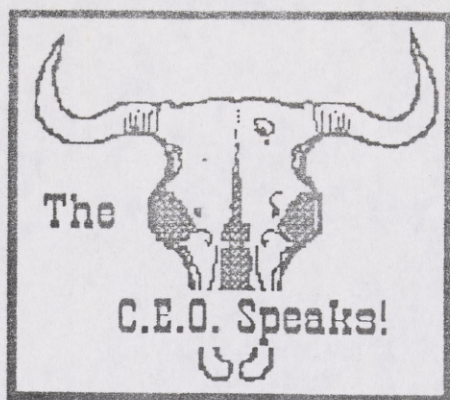
We ended 1989 with our most successful Hoedown ever. The workshops and hoedown on February 10 should be just as successful, if not more so, if we continue to work harmoniously together. We have made a name for ourselves among both gay and straight square dance clubs, and it is a good name, indeed. Bay area and beyond clubs like to come to Sacramento for our events, and straight callers and club members also like to participate with us in our

activities because we are friendly, enthusiastic, and damned good dancers. We should dedicate ourselves to continue and perpetuate this good reputation into 1990 and beyond.

The 1989-1990 year represents the third year of membership for your newsletter's editor. We became a board member in November of 1988 and took over the editorship of the newsletter from Rich Beddow's able hands in April of 1989. This involvement in the workings of the club has been very satisfying for us because of the able and willing cooperation of each and every one of you.

That is why we are especially happy to wish the entire membership of Capital City Squares a heart felt and appreciative Happy New Year!





PONDERINGS TO START (the decade)

For those "purists" who claim the decade "doesn't start until 1991," please remember that the first decade started the "day" Jesus was born, not on his first birthday! So,

WELCOME TO THE GAY NINETIES!

We're off to a great start (in spite of that mix-up with the school January 2nd — according to the contract, we were a go; according to the district, it was still vacation... oopsy) and we're going strong! It was great to see four full squares and a few extras on the 9th! Keep on comin' — yer doin' great. I do have three observations (since I was an "extra" part of the time, I watched folks) and I do not exempt myself from these points; I keep trying to convince you that I'm not perfect!

One: when in a square, listen even when you aren't dancing! If yer doing so well that you don't have to pay attention to the other couples who are dancing, then yer good enough to help pull them through should they goof — but only if you know what's going on! I noticed a few people being less than attentive (politely put, don'cha think?) while waiting for others to promenade or square thru or whatever.

Two: angels, you are here to help the class, as well as to dance, have fun, get more solid in your part, etc. Do not forget that helping may consist of, in the words of our former first lady nancy reagan (non-capitalization is intended thank-you-very-much), "Just Saying No." Refusing to do something is necessary at times. Don't be so willing to do something "extra" because "someone else did" when the square may not get through it, or when the instructor has asked you not to do it.

Three: sometimes things go wacky 'n' ya get the wrong partner. SO?!

So keep dancing. As long as ya both (all?) know what yer doin', keep goin'.

Boots: the school had the floors re-waxed (believe it or not!) and is very concerned that our boots will destroy the building (as if 600 kids cause no damage?). So, once again, in writing this time, Please, Do Not Wear Boots if at all possible... at least until the wax wears off.

Potluck and Hoedown — confirmed for February 10th. 12-2 Basic/Mainstream Workshop; 3-5 Advanced Workshop. Potluck after that and the Hoedown until 10-ish (we do have to clean up and be out by 10); see the flier for details!

I also want to thank you all, once again, for the support for our December 9th Hoedown! The turnout was great and everyone pitched in to help before, during, and after! It was equally exciting to see all you folks from S.F., S.J., Eureka, and environs. Thanks to you, too, for coming, for helping, for joining in! You are much more than welcome to join us anytime.

Northstar Promenade (April 12-15, 1990) Yee haa! Aren't you signed up yet? It's going to be so much fun! Info and reg forms are available at each dance night;

Kenric is coordinating housing/roommates and looking into flight arrangements. It's not that far away, folks! Updates as we get them...

Guerneville Retreat (April 28-30, 1990) Those who attended last year had nuthin' but fun! We plan more the same this year. It's "solidifying" and we'll keep you informed as details and final decisions become available. (Sure, it's real quick after Convention — 2 weeks — but you won't believe how ready you'll be to dance again!) So, plan to be there! Invite non-dancers and dancers from other clubs! Bring 'em all!!

Well, folks, I did it again (rambled on). I'm glad you're here. I do thank you for your support. Keep up the great work. I cherish you (even if I don't always act like it!).

See ya dancin'

George



Letters, We Get Letters!

The following letter, dated December 11, 1989, was received by Karl Murray:

Dear Board and Club Members,

I want to thank you for having me call your December Dance. It was my pleasure to do the dance for you folks and I enjoyed everyone and everyone seemed to be having a good time.

Judy and I want to thank you for the hospitality and friendliness shown.

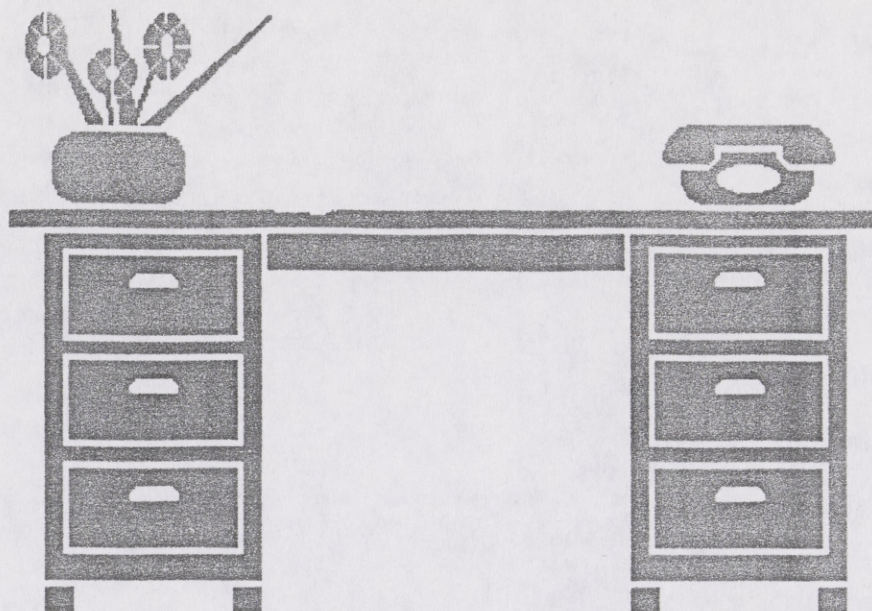
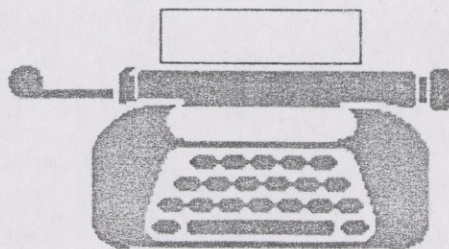
It makes it super nice when people are out to enjoy themselves and make their guest feel welcome, which you folks did.

I hope your club has many more successful dances and we can again take part.

Hope to see all of you in a square again real soon.

Sincerely,

Joe Kula



And Capital City Squares received the following letter, dated December 27, 1989, from the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento:

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and residents of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento I wish to extend our sincere appreciation to you for the contribution of \$300.00 in memory of one of your members, Joel Dawes.

There are always extras that we wish to provide or want to do with the children during the holidays and your generosity is most helpful to us. Your group has been most supportive in the past and this is a most thoughtful act on your part.

Thank you for thinking of our children. Happy New Year to you all.

Sincerely,

MaryAnne Wood
Executive Director

Staff

Capital City Capers The News Organ of the Capital City Squares

Editor, Bill McCrory

The views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily the views of the CCS board

Class/Club Dues:

\$90 a year

\$10 a month

Due on the 15th of the month
Newsletter only: \$12 a year

Capital City Squares Board of Directors

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Cindy Sullivan, Secretary

Mary Jo Semmelmayr,

Treasurer

Bill McCrory, Newsletter; Social

Rick Arts, At Large

Kenric Brown, NewClass

Kris Corbridge, Plus Class
Instructor

Karl Murray, Basic/Mainstream
Class Instructor

Joy TeSelle & Margaret Coelho,
Club History

What Do You Mean "Fun"?

Perhaps all beginning square dancers wonder at some point why they ever thought it might be fun to learn to square dance. Week after week you plod through a seemingly endless list of calls, vainly trying to learn each new one that comes along, while struggling to remember those from last week and the week before. Just when you feel confident about a particular call, the instructor will say, with a fiendish gleam in his/her eye, "Of course, this can also be called from a half-sashayed position." And immediately, you are back to square one. (No pun intended!) And I'm not trying to pretend that there aren't times for each of us when it seems as though we'll never even learn right from left.

So how can I even suggest that there is such a thing as a FUN night of square dancing? Well, for one thing I've danced in your shoes. I've been discouraged and frustrated and lost. But because I didn't stop, it got easier. The more often I danced, the less confused and more proficient I became. Perhaps most important of all, I learned to laugh at my mistakes. That's when square dancing gets to be fun.

Every-other-Wednesday fun nights give us an opportunity to dance in a low-pressure, high-fun environment. There are no new calls to learn. We can dance at our comfort level. If we haven't been dancing in a while, it is an opportunity to brush up on half-forgotten calls. If we're just learning, it is a place to practice what we've learned and pat ourselves on the back for it.

We will dance at whatever levels

we have a square for — beginning, basic, mainstream, plus-learning, full plus, and even A-1, if we have the people. The more people who come, the more who can dance.

So please, come and join us at William Land School — every other Wednesday starting January 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. It's fun!

—Robin Alpen glow



Upcoming Events

Phoenix Fly-In and Gay Rodeo	January 12-14
Golden State Squares w/ Johnny Preston Rossier Center, Garden Grove, CA	January 13
Independence Squares, Philadelphia, PA First Graduation w/ Anne Uebelacker	January 21
WSD Marin Headlands Mini-Retreat 1990	January 27-28
CCS/Prime 8's Workshops, Potluck, and Hoedown	February 10
Tinseltown's Flip Your Diamonds Fly-In	February 16-19
The Spanish Fly-In, Puddletown Dancers, Seattle	February 16-18
Swing Thru Portland	April 6-8
Move On To Seattle	April 9-11
Northstar Promenade in Vancouver, B.C.	April 12-15
CCS Russian River Retreat	April 27-29
CCS Graduation Workshops and Hoedown	June 9

SOME VANCOUVER TRAVEL OPTIONS

Since for many years I lived in Seattle, and during that time (and even since) have frequently visited Vancouver B.C. and Portland, I thought I might offer a few suggestions to those of you planning to attend the IAGSDC square dance convention in Vancouver in April.

In addition to the obvious options of driving or flying to the Great Northwest, some of you might want to consider Amtrak in one or both directions. The Coast Starlight leaves Sacramento each evening at 11:11 p.m. and arrives in Seattle the next evening at 6:40 p.m. The scenery going over the Cascade Mountains shortly after breakfast is terrific. There is no rail service between Seattle and Vancouver, but there is a direct bus connection at the Seattle train station, with the bus arriving in Vancouver at the Sandman Inn at 10:30 p.m. Through ticketing is available. The bus also connects with the southbound train, although I would certainly urge a stop-over in Seattle. The Emerald City, in one direction. (Seattle was formerly the Queen City. I wonder why they changed?) If you want sleeper space on the train, make your reservations NOW, since sleeper space frequently is sold out months in advance. A stop-over in Portland would also be very worthwhile.

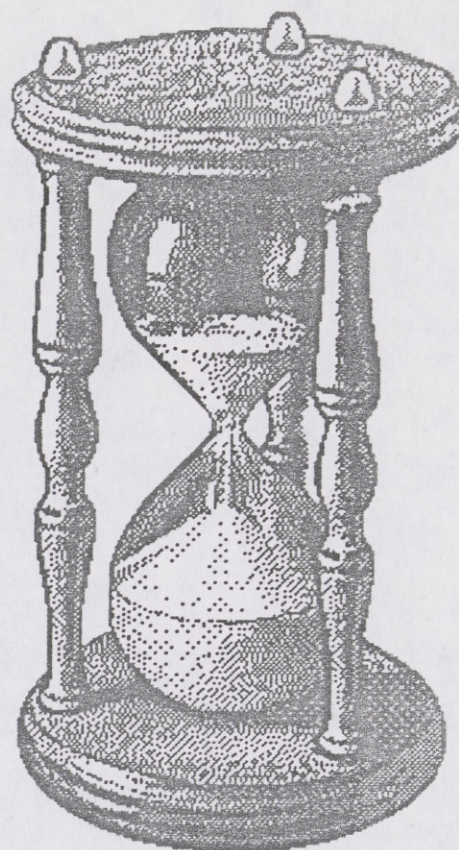
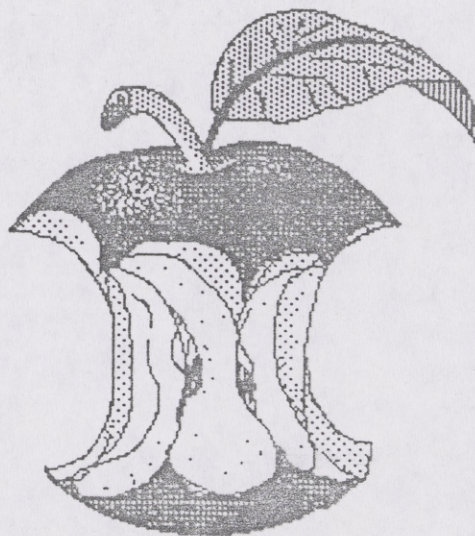
Many of you will want to visit Victoria, the capital of British Columbia. Victoria has much more of a "British" feel than Vancouver. High tea in midafternoon in the lobby of the venerable Empress Hotel is quite a tourist ritual. The hotel and the Parliament Building

overlooking the picturesque inner harbour and the beautiful Butchart Gardens warrant a couple of extra rolls of film for your camera. Since Victoria is on Vancouver Island, you will either have to fly or take a ferry, steamship, or hydrofoil to get there. Rather than a nuisance, I consider this an opportunity to enjoy a scenic mini-cruise through the San Juan Islands, across the Straits of Georgia or Juan de Fuca, or down Puget Sound to or from Seattle. I won't go into all of the numerous route alternatives here, but if you are interested, please contact me for more details.

If you want more information regarding transportation alternatives, or things to see and do in Portland, Seattle, Victoria, or Vancouver, please ask me at square dance night or phone me at 925-5511.

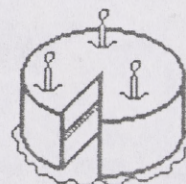
NEXT MONTH: Some sightseeing suggestions when you get there.

—Bob Koski



January Birthdays

Cindy Sullivan	January 4
Kenric Brown	January 8
Barbara Thalacker	January 16
Cindy Kneff	January 20
Carol Cullens	January 27



dancing with ghosts

no more
no more
oh no more senseless deaths, please stem the flood
too many gave already their life blood
in pain, with dignity, but to no end
they had no enemy, naught to defend;
only their lives, the pain and joy untasted
and we cry out for their young lives now wasted.
they do not go gently into that night
hand to hand all those that can do fight;
they struggle to believe that life has meaning
though death will strike while april's leaves are greening.



no more
no more
death has already claimed more than its share
and we have lost far more than we can bear.
each life, reduced to just a square of cloth
together covers the world in a bloody swath
of suffering and death and useless grieving
how can we smile again and keep believing
how can we fight when odds so far outweigh
and nothing we can do buys one more day
and all our tears won't wash the hurt away
and sometimes we can't even try to pray.

**Again, it is our sad duty to report to
you the deaths of former members of
Capital City Squares.**

Al Valdez died in December.

Roy Frisch died in January.

no more
no more
i've danced with some of those who have passed on
i hope they're dancing in a brighter dawn
and when i dance with ghosts and my heart cries
i'll know their names and see their smiling eyes.

—Robin Alpenglow



Truck on Down and Spend All Day Saturday, February 10, 1990, with Prime 8's and Capital City Squares for Mainstream and Advanced Class Level Workshops, Potluck, and Hoedown!

Caller—

Jett Roberts

Location—

William Land School,
12th & V Streets,
Sacramento, California

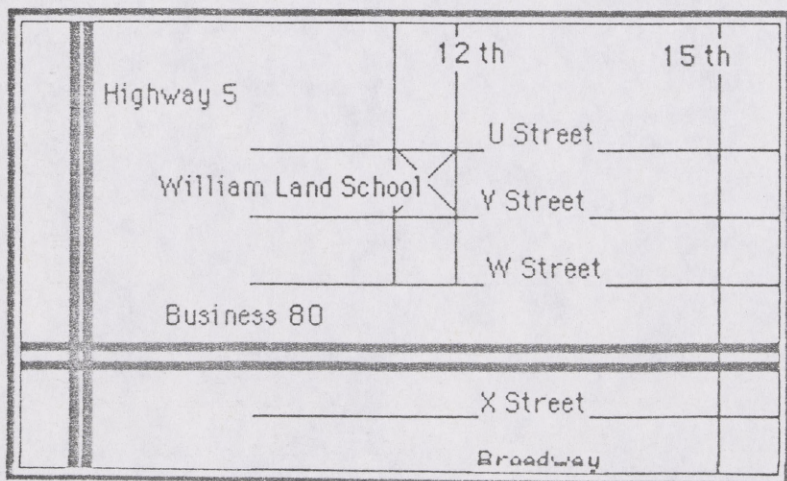
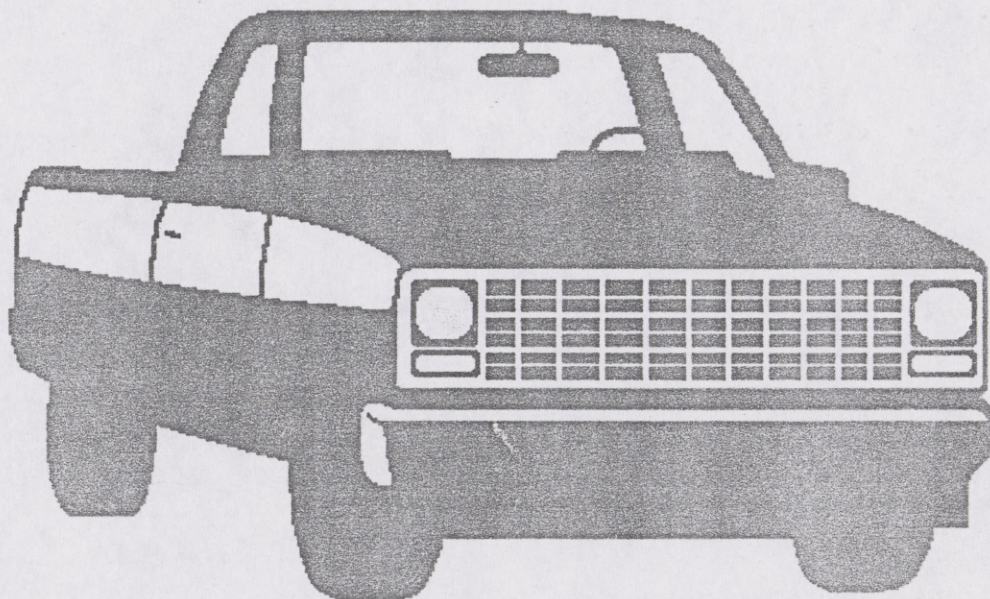
Times—

12:00 to 2:30 Mainstream
Class Level Workshop

2:30 to 5:00 Advanced Class
Level Workshop

5:00 to 7:00 Potluck Dinner

7:00 to 10:00 Hoedown—
Alternating Class Level
and Plus Tips
with A-1 Star Tips



Cost—

\$3.00 for each Workshop

\$5.00 for the Hoedown OR

\$10.00 for the Whole Day!

Kitchen facilities are not available, so Out-of-Towners should bring desserts and salads that do not need refrigeration or heating. Locals will bring hot main dishes from home.

For Info Call George (916) 447-2217 or
Bill (916) 969-5153

WELLA*GRAM

WANTED: YOUR RECIPE!!!

AGAIN!

for the 2nd edition of



An IAGSDC Cookbook put together by Miss Wella Balsam

Send your favorite recipe, along with your name, address, squaredance club, and phone number should I need to contact you. When "From The Kitchen of:" is published (in time for the Vancouver convention), I will send you a complimentary copy of the cookbook! Autographed, of course! Please be clear in your ingredients and measurements when writing out your recipe. We don't want to start out bakin' a cake, and endin' up with a pie! Please send to the address below.

Can't wait to see what yer all sendin' to me! I'll be waitin' by the mailbox with eager hands an' a real hot oven/stove!!! Love y'all.....

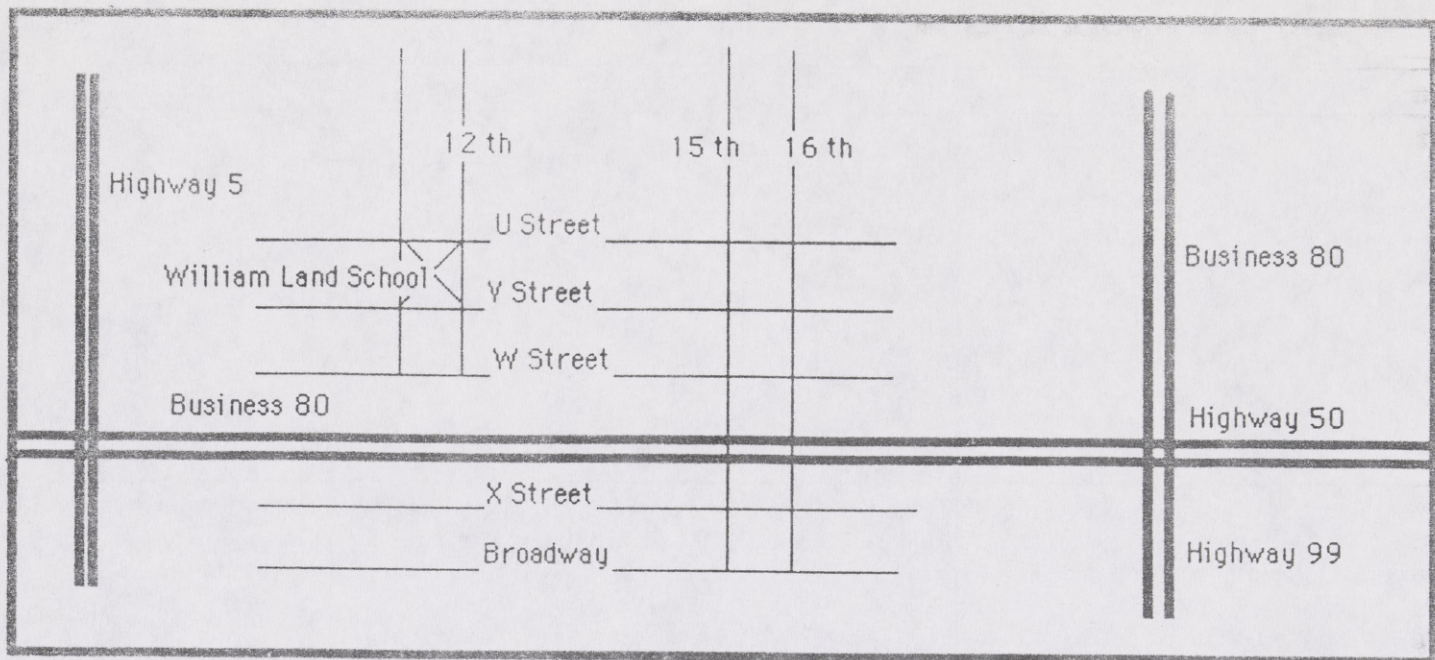
Send your recipe to:

WELLA BALSAM
1868 WILLIAM ST.
VANCOUVER, BC
CANADA V5L 2R6
(604)253-1258 (ask for Bill)



January 1990

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		CCS Class night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
MS Live Oak School SF FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF	Prime 8's 6:00-9:00 Wm Land School WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF	CCS Class night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School	CCS Fun Dance Night 7:00-9:00 Wm Land School ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF	Desert Valley Squares Phoenix Fly-In (Gay Rodeo)	Desert Valley Squares Phoenix Fly-In (Gay Rodeo) Golden State Squares w/ Johnny Preston Rossier Center Garden Grove, CA
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MS Live Oak School SF FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF Desert Valley Squares Phoenix Fly-In (Gay Rodeo)	Prime 8's 6:00-9:00 Wm Land School WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF	CCS Class night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto	FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
MS Live Oak School SF FCD Club Night 7:00-9:00 The Corral SF	Prime 8's 6:00-9:00 Wm Land School WSD 7:30-9:30 EVRC SF	CCS Class night 7:00-10:00 Wm Land School FCD Class Night 7:00-9:00 Live Oak School	ECR 7:30-9:30 St. Andrews Church Palo Alto			
28	29	30	31			



Capital City Squares
P.O. Box 19986
Sacramento, CA 95819

PUT
STAMP
HERE